standing near his gun while passing the enemy's batteries in a gun-boat, with his cartridge-box and pistol fastened around him with a strong broad belt. A rifle shell struck these obliquely, carrying them away, as well as a portion of the integuments and muscles in the lumbar region the size of his two hands. The shock was severe, and the pain excruciating. He vomited freely, and could only lay upon the bed prone. The spinous processes of the second, third, and fourth lumbar vertebræ were fractured through their laminæ; were denuded and freely movable. There was no paralysis, but a slight sluggishness in the movements of the lower extremities. The bladder was paralyzed, and required the urine to be drawn off; the bedclothes were kept damp by this fluid dribbling away during the night. Water dressings were applied until all inflammatory action was controlled, then simple dressings were resorted to, under which treatment the wound cicatrized and the spinous processes became consolidated in seven or eight weeks.

I saw the patient a year afterwards, and then he was inconvenienced by dribbling of urine, but was gradually improving; his general health was better. The functions of the muscles of the legs were also being gradually re-established.

Puerperal Convulsions treated by Bromide of Potassium. By CHAS. C. SHOYER, M. D., of Leavenworth, Kansas.

Mrs. H., aged 18, primipara, consulted me, April 30th, for a severe pain in what I first mistook for the fundus of the uterus, and supposed labour had set in; I could not reach the os uteri, and promised to call again in three hours; on my return she still complained of pain at the same place, and that it was more violent; I now questioned her more closely, and finding, the os still out of reach, diagnosticated gastric pain, and ordered: ℞.—Sp. lavand. co. ℥j, morphia sul. gr. j.—M. S.—Teaspoonful hourly till relieved; two doses quelled the pain. In the night she vomited and had two stools from a half ounce ol. ricini; she also had a morbidly craving appetite, and ate largely of meat, bread, etc., all night long, and on the morning of the 1st of May, at 7 A. M., got up for the purpose of again eating, and fell to the floor fainting; upon being placed in bed she had a series of violent convulsions. I reached her at 8 A. M. and found her strongly convulsed; breathing stertorously; pupils insensible to light; teeth firmly fixed, and frothing at the mouth. I at once administered ol. tiglii two drops, and gave in all five drops in an hour; it had no effect whatever. Chloroform being now at hand I caused her to inhale it, which at once stopped the convulsions, but upon withdrawing it convulsions recurred. Having ascertained the death of the child, by auscultation and palpation, I punctured the membranes, through a speculum, with an ordinary pocket probe, fastened in a common spring forceps. In a short time she commenced vomiting, which was assisted by emetics; throwing up large quantities of pieces of meat, bread, etc., showing the food to have been swallowed without being masticated. She became quiet for a short time only, and I then administered the following dose: ℞.—Hyd. chlor. mit. gr. xv, podophyllin gr. j, to be followed in three hours by magnes. sulph. ℥ss. This occasioned three large passages, which were voided into the bed, the patient being unconscious. I may here say, that these medicines were given at such times as we could get her to swallow. Cold was applied to the head, and sinapisms to the extremities. Dr. Carpenter now met me in consultation. After the operation of the cathartic there was a cessation of the convulsions for nearly three hours, but the pains of labour setting in

at about 5 P. M., she again became convulsed, and had several in rapid succession. We had thus far emptied the stomach and bowels, ruptured the membranes, and administered chloroform, and all without avail. The chloroform acted well so long as it was inhaled, but as we could not obtain a trustworthy person to administer it in our absence, we determined to give bromide of potassium in fifteen grain doses hourly, and be governed by its effects; we reasoned from its effects in epilepsy and other nervous affections. From the time of its first administration to the termination of parturition, a period of 21½ hours, she never had another convulsion, nor has she since. The bromide was given five hours in succession, or about seventy-five grains; allowing some to have been wasted, she got fully ℥j. Being now quiet and somnolent (the stertor having ceased), the intervals were lengthened, and it was only given to allay restlessness. On the morning of the 2d, I found she could be aroused; pulse 85; sensible to the pain of labour which was now advancing slowly; would answer questions in monosyllables, but evidently did not like to be disturbed; os dilating; there was considerable anæsthesia. Bromide was now given every four hours and discontinued at 12½ P. M.; child was born at 2½ P. M. It was eighteen inches long, and the epidermis was peeling; should judge it to have been 8½ months old; placenta came away and uterus contracted as in a natural labour. She took in all ℥ijss bromide of potassium from 5 P. M. May 1st, to 12½ P. M. May 2d, a period of nineteen and a half hours. She remained soporose until the morning of the 3d, and then awakened as from a prolonged sleep, and remembered nothing of the past, not even that she had had a child. I could obtain none of her urine until thirty hours after her confinement; it contained no albumen, but she complained of vertigo and other cerebral symptoms, with œdema of feet and legs, before sending for me. This is, so far as I know, the *first* case of puerperal convulsions treated by the bromide of potassium, and I ask for it a more extended trial; should such another case present itself, I would not induce premature labour, but exhibit the remedy at once.

Citric Acid in Metritis. By CHARLES W. OLESON, M.D., of Bloomingdale, Ill.

Mrs. M. K., primipara, was delivered, May 2d, after a slow but unassisted labour, of a healthy male child.

Several days previous to her confinement, I had been summoned on account of severe lancinating pains, situated in right iliac region and extending into hip. These pains were speedily relieved by a few doses of the compound ipecac. powders. After the accouchement, beyond slight strangury, which was relieved by the application of cloths wrung out of warm water to the vulva, she did well until the evening of the fifth day, when the pain reappeared, but of a more severe nature and extending over the entire hypogastrium. The tongue soon became covered with a white, pasty coat, the pulse ranged from 120 to 130, the lochia was suppressed, the stools were frequent and thin, the appetite lost, the womb became exquisitely tender when touched, and the patient tossed in bed vainly seeking by change of position to relieve her distress. I ordered a warm epithem of hops and camphor, to be renewed every two hours, and gave half a teaspoonful of castor oil. The cathartic expelled some hardened feces, after which the discharges became less frequent and of better consistency. I also gave two drops of fluid ext. of verat. viride every three hours, and to procure rest and relieve pain half a grain of sulph. morph. and 6 grains